



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING


RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

November 26, 2013

MEMORANDUM

TO: Jamey Fitzpatrick
President and CEO, Michigan Virtual University

FROM: Mike Flanagan
State Superintendent 

SUBJECT: Online Course Catalog

In the current School Aid Act, Michigan students enrolled in a public local district or public school academy in any of grades 5 to 12 are eligible to enroll in an online course. Students may select courses from the online course catalog published by the educating district, or they may select courses from the statewide catalog of online courses that contains the courses found in the educating district catalog in addition to courses published by other district course providers statewide, including Michigan Virtual School courses.

Apparently, there is some confusion across the state that online course offerings by Michigan's intermediate school districts (ISDs) are not allowed to be included in the statewide catalog. It is my understanding that Local Education Agencies (LEAs), also referred to as local districts, are allowed to upload their online courses into the statewide catalogs, but ISDs are not being considered "districts" as included in the state law.

I am determining, as State Superintendent, that both ISDs and LEAs are "districts" and eligible to offer and provide online courses in the statewide course catalog under all of the conditions specified in MCL 388.1621f of the state School Aid Act. Please work with all interested ISDs to facilitate the loading of their courses into the statewide catalog as quickly as possible, and extend any deadlines that may be necessary to accommodate this. This determination will help us ensure that the maximum number of students and districts are able to take advantage of this important opportunity for online learning.

I thank you and Michigan Virtual University for your leadership in expanding the digital learning options for Michigan students.

cc: ISD Superintendents
LEA Superintendents
PSA Directors
Michigan Education Alliance

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